

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An object catcher comprising:
a support shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
a sheet portion arranged adjacent to the distal end of the support shaft, the sheet portion defining a periphery;
a first line having a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion therebetween;
and
a second line having a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion therebetween;
wherein the first ends of the first and second lines are secured to the distal end of the support shaft, the intermediate portions of the first and second lines are slidably coupled to the periphery of the sheet portion, and the second ends of the first and second lines extend in parallel with the support shaft so that pulling the second ends of the first and second lines in the direction from the distal end to the proximal end of the support shaft causes the periphery of the sheet portion to be gathered to thereby close the sheet portion, the first and second lines respectively extending along the periphery of the sheet portion by forming two separate loops such that each loop circumscribes the periphery of the sheet portion.

2. (Original) The object catcher of Claim 1, wherein the support shaft comprises a first tube and the second ends of the first and second lines extend through the tube.

3. (Original) The object catcher of Claim 2, further comprising a rod adapted to slide within the tube, the rod defining a distal end and a proximal end, and the second ends of the first and second lines being secured to the distal end of the rod so that pulling the proximal end of the rod in the direction from the distal end to the proximal end of the support shaft causes the periphery of the sheet portion to be gathered to thereby close the sheet portion.

4-8. (Canceled.)

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9. (Original) The object catcher of Claim 1, wherein the periphery of the sheet portion defines a channel through which the intermediate portion of the line extends.

10. (Original) The object catcher of Claim 1, wherein the sheet portion is formed of a mesh material.

11. (Original) The object catcher of Claim 1, wherein the line comprises a wire.

12-13. (Canceled.)